

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 262

Entitled the “Peaceful Resolution of the Conflict” in Chechnya.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 24, 2000

Mr. WELLSTONE submitted the following resolution; which was considered and
agreed to

RESOLUTION

Entitled the “Peaceful Resolution of the Conflict” in
Chechnya.

Whereas the people of Chechnya are exercising the legitimate
right of self-defense against the indiscriminate use of
force by the Government of the Russian Federation;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has used
disproportionate force in the bombings of civilian targets
in Chechnya which has resulted in the deaths of thou-
sands of innocent civilians and the displacement of well
over 250,000 others;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has re-
fused to engage in negotiations with the Chechen resist-
ance toward a just peace and instead has charged
Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov with armed mutiny
and issued a warrant for his arrest;

Whereas Russian authorities deny access to regions in and around Chechnya by the international community, including officials of the United Nations, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe, and maintain a virtual ban on access to Chechen civilians by media and international humanitarian organizations, including the International Federation of the Red Cross;

Whereas these restrictions severely limited the ability of these organizations to ascertain the extent of the humanitarian crisis and to provide humanitarian relief;

Whereas even limited testimony and general investigation by international organizations credibly report widespread looting, summary executions, detentions, denial of safe passage to fleeing civilians, torture and rape committed by Russian soldiers;

Whereas there are credible reports of specific atrocities committed by Russian soldiers in Chechnya, including the rampages in Alkhan-Yurt where 17 persons were killed in December 1999 and in the Staropromyslovsky district of Grozny where 44 persons were killed in December 1999, and the rapes of Chechnya prisoners in the Chernokosovo detention camp;

Whereas these credible reports indicate clear violations of international human rights standards and law that must be investigated, and those responsible must be held accountable; and

Whereas United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson proposed on February 20, 2000, the prosecution of Russian military commanders for over-

seeing “executions, tortures, and rapes”: Now, therefore,
be it

1 *Resolved*, That (a) the Senate expresses its concern
2 over the conflict and humanitarian tragedy in Chechnya,
3 and its desire for a peaceful resolution and durable settle-
4 ment to the conflict.

5 (b) It is the sense of the Senate that—

6 (1) the Government of the Russian
7 Federation—

8 (A) immediately cease its military oper-
9 ations in Chechnya and initiate negotiations to-
10 ward a just peace with the leadership of the
11 Chechen Government, including President Aslan
12 Maskhadov;

13 (B) allow into and around Chechnya inter-
14 national missions to monitor and report on the
15 situation there and to investigate alleged atroc-
16 ities and war crimes;

17 (C) allow international humanitarian agen-
18 cies immediate full and unimpeded access to
19 Chechen civilians, including those in refugee,
20 detention and so called “filtration camps” or
21 any other facility where citizens of Chechnya
22 are detained; and

23 (D) investigate fully the atrocities com-
24 mitted in Chechnya including those alleged in

1 Alkhan-Yurt, and Grozny, and initiate prosecu-
2 tions against those officers and soldiers ac-
3 cused; and

4 (2) the President of the United States of
5 America—

6 (A) should promote peace negotiations be-
7 tween the Government of the Russian Federa-
8 tion and the leadership of the Chechen Govern-
9 ment, including President Aslan Maskhadov,
10 through third party mediation by the OSCE,
11 United Nations or other appropriate parties;

12 (B) endorse the call of the United Nations
13 High Commissioner for Human Rights for an
14 investigation of alleged war crimes committed
15 by the Russian military in Chechnya; and

16 (C) should take tangible steps to dem-
17 onstrate to the Government of the Russian Fed-
18 eration that the United States strongly con-
19 demns its brutal conduct in Chechnya and its
20 unwillingness to find a just political solution to
21 the conflict in Chechnya.

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